

REMARKS

Claims 1-7 are pending in the application. Claims 8 and 9 are withdrawn from consideration.

Claims 1, 3, and 4 have been amended in order to more particularly point out, and distinctly claim the subject matter to which the Applicants regard as their invention. It is believed that this Amendment is fully responsive to the Office Action dated **September 19, 2002**.

Claim Rejections under 35 USC §112

Claims 1-7 are rejected under 35 USC §112, first and second paragraph, as the claimed invention is not described in such full, clear, concise and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to make and use the same, and/or for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Specifically, claims 1 and 4 are rejected under 35 USC § 112, first and second paragraph. Taking the Examiner's comments into consideration, claims 1 and 4 are amended. Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-7 under 35 USC § 112, first and second paragraphs, is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejection under 35 USC §102

Claims 1 and 7, are rejected under 35 USC §102(a), as being anticipated by Dickinson.

Dickinson describes a crank bearing, as illustrated in figure 2, having an inner ring (20) an outer ring (21) and a number of antifriction elements (22) sandwiched between the two. In addition, a flange structure (17) is attached to the outer ring (21).

The present invention patentably distinguishes over Dickinson in that a supporting part (or supporter) protrudes in the direction of the rotational access and is coaxial with the rotational axis of the inner and outer rings. Accordingly, a third member can be supported coaxially with first and second members by the supporting part.

However, Dickinson, as shown in the figures 2 and 4, provides for a land (32) formed at the shoulder portion of the inner ring (20) that is not coaxial with (or eccentric to) the elongated channel member (28).

Therefore, claim 1 patentably distinguishes over the prior art relied upon, by reciting,

"A bearing structure, comprising: an inner ring; an outer ring coaxially disposed on the outer periphery of said inner ring; a rolling element rollably sandwiched between said inner ring and said outer ring; a supporting part integrally formed with and protruding axially from at least one of said inner ring and said outer ring; wherein, said inner ring being capable of supporting a first member on its inner periphery; said outer ring being capable of supporting a second member on its outer periphery in a relatively rotatable manner to said first member; said supporting part being capable of coaxially supporting a third member and also being integrally and coaxially rotatable with said at least one of said inner ring and said outer ring." (Emphasis Added)

Claim 7 is allowable by virtue of its dependence upon an allowable independent claim. Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 1 and 7, under 35 USC §102(a), as being anticipated by Dickinson is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, claims 1, 3, and 4, as amended, are in condition for allowance, which action, at an early date, is requested.

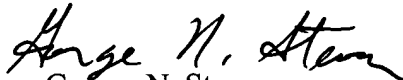
If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "**Version with markings to show changes made.**"

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosures: Version with markings to show changes made

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1, 3, and 4 as follows:

1. (Amended) A bearing structure, comprising:

an inner ring;

an outer ring coaxially disposed on the outer periphery of said inner ring; [and]

a rolling element rollably [and rotatably] sandwiched between said inner ring and said outer ring; [and which is capable of]

a supporting [a first member mounted on the inner periphery] part integrally formed with and protruding axially from at least one of said inner ring and [a second member mounted on the outer periphery of] said outer ring [in a relatively rotatable manner];

wherein,

[at least either] said inner ring [or said outer ring is formed to protrude in the direction of the rotation axis of said relative rotation more than the other of said outer ring or inner ring; and

wherein a supporter for engageably supporting a third member which integrally rotates with said inner ring or said outer ring or which stands still is formed on the outer periphery of the inner ring formed to protrude in said rotation axis direction or] being capable of supporting a first member on its inner periphery;

said [on the inner periphery of the] outer ring [formed to protrude in said rotation axis direction] being capable of supporting a second member on its outer periphery in a relatively rotatable manner to said first member;

said supporting part being capable of coaxially supporting a third member and also being integrally and coaxially rotatable with said at least one of said inner ring and said outer ring.

3. (Amended) A bearing structure according to claim 1, wherein said outer ring constitutes an [inner] outer race, said inner ring constitutes an [outer] inner race, said rolling element is formed of a plurality of balls sandwiched and set between said inner race and said outer race, and, as a whole, constitute a radial ball bearing.

4. (Amended) A bearing structure according to claim 1, wherein said outer ring constitutes an [inner] outer race, said inner ring constitutes an [outer] inner race, said rolling element is formed of a plurality of rollers sandwiched and arranged between said inner race and said outer race, and, a radial roller bearing is constituted as a whole.